



United States Department of the Interior



Bureau of Land Management

Battle Mountain Field Office
50 Bastian Road
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820
(775)635-4000 Fax(775)635-4034

February 9, 2001

In Reply Refer to:
NV063-99-001P
(NVN067930)
3809
NV063-EIS00-28
1790

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Phoenix Project, prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain Field Office (BLM). The Phoenix Project is an expansion of current mining operations being proposed by Battle Mountain Gold Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corporation.

The DEIS analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with proposed Phoenix Project mining and processing activities. The Phoenix Project is located approximately 12 miles southwest of Battle Mountain, in Lander County, Nevada.

Comments on the DEIS can be sent to the above address, attn: Pam Jarnecke. Comments should be postmarked by May 4, 2001, to ensure full consideration. Public comments may also be presented at the public scoping meeting to be held April 4, 2001, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the Battle Mountain BLM Field Office.

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be prepared that will consider the comments received during the public review and comment period. If you would like any additional information, please contact Pam Jarnecke at (775)635-4144.

Sincerely,

Gerald M. Smith

Field Manager
Battle Mountain Field Office

**DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PHOENIX PROJECT**

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Battle Mountain Field Office

Cooperating Agency: Nevada Division of Wildlife

Project Location: Lander County, Nevada

**Comments on this EIS
Should be Directed to:** Pam Jarnecke, EIS Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Battle Mountain Field Office
50 Bastian Road
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820
(775) 635-4000

Date Draft EIS Filed with EPA: March 2, 2001

**Date by Which Comments Must
Be Received by the BLM:** May 4, 2001

ABSTRACT

Battle Mountain Gold Company (BMG) has submitted a Plan of Operations to the Battle Mountain Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to expand its current mining and mineral processing operations in Copper Canyon south of the town of Battle Mountain in Lander County, Nevada. The proposed project would involve developing the Phoenix and Reona pits and expanding the existing Midas and Iron Canyon pits. Mining the ore deposits would be coupled with excavating and processing low-grade gold ore stockpiles associated with previous mining operations. Heap-leach-grade ore would be processed at the existing and proposed expansion of the Reona heap leach facility. Mill-grade ore would be processed at proposed crushing, grinding, and milling facilities. Tailings would be deposited at a new lined tailings facility south of Copper Canyon. The proposed plan also includes closing and reclaiming the previous copper heap leach facilities, lining and isolating the previous copper tailings facility, and backfilling three existing open pits. The proposed expansion would result in approximately 4,295 acres of new disturbance on public and private lands in the Copper Canyon area.

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) describes the environmental impacts associated with the proposed development of the Phoenix Project (the Proposed Action) and the No Action alternative.

Responsible Official for EIS:

Gerald M. Smith
Field Manager
Battle Mountain Field Office